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MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

14 October 1954

TO: John Ward  
FROM: B. E. Kuniholm  
SUBJECT: Alfreds Berzins

#4-817  
There is attached a biographical data form on Mr. Alfreds Berzins, the last remaining member of the Latvian Government. At the time of his defection from Latvia in 1940, Berzins was Minister of Public and Social Affairs. At present Berzins is head of the Latvian Desk of the Free Europe Committee and is also a political researcher and analyst for the Committee for a Free Latvia.

I have known Berzins for some eighteen years. Up until the occupation of Latvia by the Soviets in 1940, we lived in the same apartment house, I on the first floor and he on the second floor. We were close friends, members of the Latvian Hunters Club, and saw each other with great frequency. Berzins was an outstanding leader among the Latvians, and had a tremendous following among the Latvian youth, whose leader he had been in the Home Guard for some twenty years. I know of no representative of the Baltic countries who has had more experience in propaganda work than Berzins, and doubt that any of their present propaganda men can compare with him.

If there is any interest on the part of the Advisory Board, or any of its agencies, in his talents, I suggest that he be approached and cleared according to the customary procedures. I believe that he has already been cleared for his present work, and that he could probably be moved into other sensitive work were such to be made available.

BBK

BEK:nt

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

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AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR LIBERATION FROM BOLSHAEVISM, INC.

PERSONAL INFORMATION  
(Pre-Employment)

(Note: If sufficient space is not provided, please use additional sheets, numbering each item to correspond with the question on this form)

DATE October 11, 19 54

1. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

a. Name BERZINS Alfreds Mr.  
Last First Middle Mr. Miss Mrs.

b. Other names used none  
Last First Middle

c. Present Address 114 West 71st street New-York City  
Number Street  
office: 4 West 57 street, room 907, PLAZA -7-4692  
City State Telephone

d. Social Security No. 101-26-4300

e. Permanent Mailing Address 4 West 57 street, room 907.

f. Person to be notified in case of emergency: Mr. Adolfs Klive, 2317 Morris Avenue, Bronx, N.Y.  
Name

g. Date and Place of Birth October 21 1899 Latvia  
Month Day Year Place

Present Nationality Latvian  
How derived by birth  
If not an American Citizen, indicate type of Visa Permanent resident

h. Father: Name in Full Jakabs BERZINS Mother: Name in Full Karlina BERZINS nee PETERENS  
Date of Birth deceased Date of Birth deceased  
Place of Birth Latvia Place of Birth Latvia  
Present Address deceased Present Address deceased  
Citizenship Latvian Citizenship Latvian  
How derived by birth How derived by birth

i. Spouse (If married): Aline BERZINS nee Saberts  
Name in Full Aline BERZINS nee Saberts  
Date of Birth September 2, 1897  
Place of Birth Latvia Present Address deported to Siberia  
Citizenship Latvian How derived by birth  
Children (if any)  
Name in Full Maija, daughter Date of Birth December 13, 1933

Other Dependents

3. List the countries which have issued you passports any time during the last ten years:
- | Country | Date of issue or expiration |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| none    |                             |

Present passport, Travel Document, or identification ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD A7845451  
Country of issue \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of issue \_\_\_\_\_ Place of issue \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of expiration \_\_\_\_\_ Left country of citizenship July 1, 1940  
Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Entered the U.S. August 29, 1950 Type of U.S. Visa Immigration visa  
Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year Expires \_\_\_\_\_

2. EDUCATION

- a. High School or secondary school: Name and location of high school, gymnasium, or other secondary school from which graduated or diploma or certificate received:

Valka High School in Latvia Date 1918

- b. Colleges, Universities: Dates Attended Degree Awarded Date of Degree

Major field(s) of study \_\_\_\_\_

Title of dissertation \_\_\_\_\_

- c. Vocational or Business Training
- | Name | City & State | Dates Attended<br>From To | Subjects Studied |
|------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|
|      |              |                           |                  |

- 2a. Have you ever been arrested and convicted for anything other than a minor traffic violation? (If answer is "yes", give details on separate sheet.) no

3. LANGUAGES

- a. Most familiar tongue Latvian, Russian, German & English

- b. If English is not your most familiar language, describe your command of English:  
speaks, reads and writes

- c. Proficiency in other languages (indicate whether excellent, good, fair or slight):
- | Language       | Speak            | Read             | Understand       |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>Latvian</u> | <u>excellent</u> | <u>excellent</u> | <u>excellent</u> |
| <u>Russian</u> | <u>excellent</u> | <u>excellent</u> | <u>excellent</u> |
| <u>German</u>  | <u>good</u>      | <u>good</u>      | <u>good</u>      |

4. EXPERIENCE (List in reverse chronological order, including military service):

- a. Employer FREE EUROPE COMMITTEE, 110 West 57 street, New York City

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Position Head of Latvian Desk from 1951 to \_\_\_\_\_ Terminal Salary \$5,200.-

Description of duties: \_\_\_\_\_

Research work

Reason for terminating employment not terminated

Name and last known address of

immediate supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Richard Hunt, Head of the Press Division

- b. Employer COMMITTEE FOR A FREE LATVIA, 4 West 57 street,

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Position Member of the Committee from 1950 to \_\_\_\_\_ Terminal Salary \$3,600.-

Description of duties: Political research

Reason for terminating employment \_\_\_\_\_

Name and last known address of

immediate supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

not terminated

c. Employer LATVIAN STATE  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position Cabinet Member From 1931 To 1940 Terminal Salary \_\_\_\_\_  
 Description of duties Minister of Public and Social Affairs.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason for terminating employment COMMUNIST OCCUPATION  
 Name and last known address of immediate supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. Employer LATVIAN PARLIAMENT  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position Member of the Parliament From 1931 To 1934 Terminal Salary \_\_\_\_\_  
 Description of duties Member of the Public Relations and Social Committees  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason for terminating employment appointed to the Cabinet of Latvia.  
 Name and last known address of immediate supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Continue on separate sheets)

5. PUBLISHED BOOKS, MONOGRAPHS, ARTICLES, ETC.  
 a. Name of Publisher, place and date:  
I Saw Vishinsky Bolshevis Latvia, Latvian Legation, Washington DC., 1948.  
Karlis Ilmaris, publishing House "Zemnieks-Domac" 1952, New York

6. REFERENCES: (Give names and address of persons who are familiar with your character, ability and proficiency. Do not include previous employers and relatives.)  
 a. In the United States:  
 Name Mr. Erik B. Kuniholm (KUNIHOLM)  
 Present address 6 E 45th St. N.Y.C.  
 Occupation Councillor of the State Department Length of acquaintance 18 years  
 Name Adolf Klive, 2317 Morris Avenue, Bronx, N.Y.  
 Present address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation Member of the Committee for a Free Latvia Length of acquaintance 30  
 Name Harry W. Lialnors  
 Present address 299 W 12th St. N.Y.C.  
 Occupation Head of the Latvian Desk, Voice of America Length of acquaintance 4 years  
 b. Credit references in the United States:  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address Chase National Bank  
Madison Avenue Branch at 57 street  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. References in other countries (if applicable):  
 Name Hon. Charles Zarins, LATVIAN MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY  
 Present address 87 Eaton Place, London S.W.1 England  
 Occupation DEAN OF THE LATVIAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS Length of acquaintance 20  
 Name Mr. Roberts Kampus,  
 Present address Old Donnell St. Madrid, Spain  
 Occupation LATVIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRS Length of acquaintance 16  
 Name Dr. O. GROSVALDS  
 Present address 10 rue Pasquier Paris VIIIème, France  
 Occupation LATVIAN MINISTER IN FRANCE Length of acquaintance 22

7. CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

(List names and addresses of all clubs, societies, professional societies, employees' groups and organizations, except those of political, racial or religious character to which you belong - or have belonged. Include membership in, or support of, any organization having headquarters or branches in foreign countries).

Name of organization AMERICAN LATVIAN ASSOCIATION

Address 3220 Seventeenth str. N.W. Washington DC

Dates of membership 1950

Name of organization LATVIAN VETERANS ORGANIZATION, 31-43 Steinway str. Long Island City

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of membership 1950

Name of organization LATVIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Address 84-17 169 str. Jamaica, New-York.

Dates of membership 1935

8. I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the accuracy of these statements will be a determining factor in the consideration of my qualifications.

October 11, 1954.

Signature

Date